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NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. Forest Service
Sierra National Forest**



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For Immediate Release:

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST CONTRIBUTES TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Clovis, CA - March 10, 2009 – U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell announced today the Agency's plan to participate in the nation's economic recovery program. The Forest Service has received \$1.15 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The first group of Forest Service projects nationwide created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act totaling \$98 million, have been selected. These initial projects will create 1,500 jobs, giving the Agency the early opportunity to put people to work. The remaining projects, totaling \$1.052 billion, will be announced shortly and will create an additional 23,500 jobs nationwide.

First round projects on lands managed by the Forest Service in California will include maintenance and construction of facilities, roads and trails totaling 70 jobs and \$7.75 million. The jobs are estimated to last from four months up to a year. These projects will benefit 11 counties.

I'm excited that we can play an important role in creating jobs for the citizens of California," said Edward Cole, Forest Supervisor. "Nearly one million dollars has been allocated to the Sierra National Forest for road and trail maintenance projects which will benefit Madera, Mariposa and Fresno counties," added Cole.

Under the language of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Forest Service will create as many jobs as possible to support communities and to get money flowing through the economy again. "On the Sierra National Forest we will not be adding to our permanent workforce but utilizing private contractors and temporary employees to get the work done," stated Cole. "It's our goal to get people back working as soon as possible," said Cole.

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